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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/621,620	07/17/2003	Graham M. Clarke	57901US005 1875	
32692 759 3M INNOVATIV	0 02/08/2007 E PROPERTIES COM	EXAMINER		
PO BOX 33427		WITCZAK, CATHERINE		
ST. PAUL, MN 53	5133-3427		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	•		3767	
SHORTENED STATUTORY P	ERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		02/08/2007	DADED	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary Catherine N. Witczak			Application	No.	Applicant(s)	
Examiner Catherine N. Witczak 3767 - The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address Period for Reply A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. Estressions of tree rays be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.35(s). In or event, however, may a reply be timely filed step 51% (6) MONTHS from the maining date of this communication. If NO period for regly is specified above, the maximum stabilitary parties with apply and will capits (50, MONTHS from the maining date of the communication. If NO period for regly is specified above, the maximum stabilitary parties with apply and will capit as (5), MONTHS from the realizing date of the communication. All SNACONED 76 U.S.C. § 133, Any reply received by the Office the than thene meaning address of the communication, even if timely filed, may re duce any searched patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). Status 1) ☑ Responsive to communication (s) filed on 12 January 2007. 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. Disposition of Claims 4) ☑ Claim(s) 1.40 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 19-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) ☑ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 8) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 8) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 8) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed. 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner. Application Papers 9) ☐ The specification is objected to restriction and/or election requirement. Application Papers 9) ☐ The specification is objected to the stream in the specification of the proving the specification is objected to See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11)				· ·		
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2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application						
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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

1. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sherman et al (US 2002/0020688).

Sherman et al disclose in Figure 11 a microneedle device comprising a first major surface (140), a plurality of microneedles (182, 184) formed of polymers (paragraphs 0015 and 0016) comprising a base that is tapered to a flat truncated tip distal the base. Sherman et al disclose in paragraph 0088 that the microneedle can comprise a solid flat tip. Sherman et al further disclose in paragraphs 0075 and 0076 the flat tip capable of comprising an area of between 20 and 100 square micrometers and the base are capable of being 900 square micrometers or more, and the height base ration being capable of being 3:1 or more. Sherman et al also disclose in these paragraphs a microneedle device capable of having a cross-sectional area of no more than 25% of the base on a plane located at a distance of 0.98h from the base.

Sherman et al disclose in paragraph 0009 the method of using the microneedle device comprising the step of contacting the skin and forcing the microneedle device against the skin.

Application/Control Number: 10/621,620 Page 3

Art Unit: 3767

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Catherine N. Witczak whose telephone number is (571) 272-7179. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8-5 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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